

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPLEMENT ON ALASKA LANDS RELEASED

The Interior Department today issued a final supplement to the 1974 Environmental Impact Statement on Alaska National Interest Lands which outlines options for Executive Branch action to protect Alaska lands.

Release of this document concludes the environmental impact review process of these actions begun on October 26 with release of the draft supplement.

The document is an addition to the 28 volume EIS on Alaska lands prepared by the Department of the Interior in 1973-74. That document describes areas suitable for inclusion in the national conservation systems.

The Carter Administration proposed 92.5 million acres of federal land in Alaska for inclusion in the national conservation systems. However, Congress adjourned this year without acting on those recommendations. On December 16 withdrawals protecting much of that land from potential development expire.

The options explored in the supplement are aimed at continuing adequate protection for that land. The Administration still seeks legislation as a final resolution of this issue.

The final supplement reflects changes suggested by comments on the topics of sport hunting and agricultural potential.

Copies of the draft supplement were sent for review to more than 4,000 groups, government bodies and individuals. Virtually every local government body and Native corporation in Alaska received a copy of the draft and was invited to comment.

Copies of the final supplement will be available for inspection at all the Government offices, libraries and other public reference locations which were listed in the October 26, 1978, Federal Register, at the time the draft supplement was published.

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